

REMARKS

Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested.

Claims 1,2,4, and 6-12 are still rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petell (US Patent No. 5,738,360) in view of Blakenburg (US Patent No. 5,207,454). Petell discloses the roller skate with a curved frame, a plurality of rotating rollers 20, 22, 24 and a front roller 30 serving as a point stop. Blakenburg discloses the use of ball supports.

With regard to claim 1, both skates of Petell and Blakenburg have limitations typical to that of most roller skates. Most notably, they do not allow the user to perform ALL maneuvers that can be done with ice skates. There are three most important types of such maneuvers: jumps, rotations (spins), and steps. Petell skate would indeed allow the user to jump (similar to the Applicant's skate) by using the front point stop. The major difference being the Petell skate in that case will have the front point stop as the only point of contact with the underlying surface. Petell fails to disclose the design of the skate allowing the user to turn during rotations using both the front point stop AND the next supporting element such as a ball support in the Applicant's invention as two points of contact. Using the skate by Petell or any other skate of the prior art, the user has to rely only on the front point stop to turn or jump, which puts unduly high frictional load on that front point stop and may cause its premature failure. Besides, it forces the user to bend the foot to a much steeper angle in order to lift the entire roller skate off the skating surface, which may cause an increased muscle fatigue and reduce the duration of skating exercise. Blakenburg does not disclose the use of a front point stop and the ball support behind it to achieve the stated above goal. It only discloses the substitution of some rollers for ball supports.

Claim 1 and paragraph [0035] of the specification have been amended to better explain that difference between the present invention and the prior art. Claim 1 now better defines the

existence of two points of contact with an underlying surface, which "are present while using said in-line roller skate to perform various skating maneuvers including rotations and jumps, a first point of contact being said point stop on said front end of said frame, and a second point of contact being said front ball support".

Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Boris Leschinsky, Applicants' Agent at 201-262-0051 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date

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